

[24th August 1925]

* Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—“ May I also point out to the hon. the Home Member that he has two voices, whereas the others have only one voice in the matter ? ”

* The hon. Khan Bahadur MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—“ Then, I have absolutely no objection to speak now, Sir.

“ Sir, with regard to this scheme I should just say that since I took charge of this portfolio I have bestowed my earnest attention 4-45 p.m. on this subject and I came down to Madras to speak to the Mappilla prisoners and their families who sailed to the Andamans by the *Maharajah* on 9th July. I spoke to them daily for two or three days. I think that the prisoners are thoroughly satisfied that the conditions in the Andamans are exactly like those of Malabar. They think that this is a very good scheme because they are going to live there with their families.”

Mr. T. M. MOIDU SAHIB :—“ How can the families know that fact before going to the Andamans ? ”

* The hon. Khan Bahadur MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—“ I am speaking of the prisoners who came from the Andamans. It was first of all stated that the Jail Committee have condemned the Andaman settlements for various reasons. I should like to point out to this hon. House that the conditions of 1919 do not exist at this present moment. Stress has been laid by my hon. Friend on the want of reformatory influences. I can now say that we have provided for the Mappilla villages one or two schools and a mosque and we have under consideration further schemes for bringing into existence more mosques and schools.

“ With regard to the health conditions, after objections were raised on this question we have received various reports from persons like Major Frerar, the Commissioner of Port Blair, Major Barker, who has been there for two or three years and is now the Superintendent of Prisons in Coimbatore and two or three officers who have gone there. I have been able to collect information which points to the one conclusion that the health of the place is very much better and it is exactly like that of Malabar.”

Mr. C. RAMALINGA REDDI :—“ May I know if the conditions are good enough for the Mappillas or are they generally good ? If they are generally good why should the Mappillas alone be asked to go to these islands ? ”

* The hon. Khan Bahadur MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—“ The conditions are good generally and one of the reasons why the Jail Committee condemned these islands is that they have wet weather, a weather just like that of Malabar.”

* Mr. K. UPPI SAHIB :—“ May I know if there is so much malaria in Malabar as in the Andamans ? ”

* The hon. Khan Bahadur MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—“ The Andamans may not suit the Madrasis. The climate of the islands is most suitable to the Malabar people. The deputation that waited upon me raised the question of immorality ; I am convinced that we are not subjecting the Mappilla women to any kind of risk. I have gone into the question thoroughly. I have asked the Tahsildar about it. There are about five Mappilla villages ; no other criminals are allowed to go there. We have the